



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/865,419	05/28/97	AUGER	S CLINK0002

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IM51/0625

EXAMINER
DUSHECK, C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1751	10

DATE MAILED: 06/25/98

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or
proceeding.**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/865,419

Applicant(s)

Auger

Examiner

Caroline Dusheck

Group Art Unit

1751

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/27/98

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-36 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 and 30, drawn to a kit for treating a substrate comprising a mineral salt and a peroxide, classified in class 8, subclass 111.
- II. Claims 2-22, drawn to methods of treating various substrates (such as wood) with an oxygen source and a metal salt, classified in class 8, subclass 404+.
- III. Claims 23-29, drawn to various articles (such as wood) which have been treated to obtain a fixed physical characteristic, classified in class 8, subclass 404+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process such as a process of cleaning or disinfecting a hard surface, and the process as claimed can be practiced with another materially different apparatus such as with a kit which contains a dyeing compound such as an azo dye.

Inventions II and III are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the

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process as claimed can be used to make a materially different product such as a disinfected hard surface, and the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process such as by a process of contacting the product with a dye composition which contains a dye compound such as an azo dye.

Inventions I and III are related as apparatus and product made. The inventions in this relationship are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the apparatus as claimed is not an obvious apparatus for making the product and the apparatus can be used for making a different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different apparatus (MPEP § 806.05(g)). In this case the apparatus as claimed can be used for making a different product such as a disinfected hard surface, and the product as claimed can be made by a materially different apparatus such as by a kit which contains a dyeing compound such as an azo dye.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the claimed kits and methods are used to treat various different substrates, and the claimed articles may comprise various different substrates. These substrates include a wide list of non-related materials including wood and wood-like products; cellulose products such as cotton, hemp, flax, and paper; leather; building materials such as porous plastic, clay, cement,

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concrete, stone, brick and masonry; fabrics; and various other materials including bamboo, rattan, cardboard, leather, wool, recycled cellulose products, flagstone and tile. Each of these claimed substrates or group of substrates defines a distinct species of the claimed invention.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1, 2, 25 and 30 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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A telephone call was made to James Wray on March 18, 1998 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made. A written restriction was requested by Mr. Wray.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Caroline L. Dusheck whose telephone number is (703) 305-3703. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30am to 6:00pm, and on alternate Fridays.

C.L.D.
June 25, 1998

Caroline L. Dusheck
Caroline L. Dusheck
Patent Examiner